

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05799 190317Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: EWG OCT 18 DISCUSSION OF RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION

(R/S)

REF: A. USNATO 5604

B. STATE 229367

C. STATE 225968

SUMMARY. DURING EWG CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR FURTHER R/S STUDIES, BELGIAN REP MADE CLEAR HIS AUTHORITIES' VIEW THAT R/S IS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO SMALL NATIONS FIGHTING TO KEEP DEFENSE SPENDING FROM FALLING FARTHER. BELGIAN REP FINALLY AGREED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, TO APPROVE FUTHER STUDY OF WARTIME LOC. EWG ALSO APPROVED FURTHER STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE NETHERLANDS, AND CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 NATO 05799 190317Z

1. AS REPORTED REF A, MILITARY COMMITTEE REP (VON ZUR GATHEN) OBJECTED TO PROCEDURE WHEREBY EWG WOULD GO THROUGH EUROGROUP CHANNELS IN INITIATING FURTHER STUDY OF CONSOLIDATED TRAINING. AFTER LENGTH DISCUSSION ONPROCEDURES, EWG ACCEPTED A COMPRO-

MISE SOLUTION WHEREBY EWG WOULD SEND PARALLEL INVITATIONS TO NORWEGIAN PERMREP (REPRESENTING CHAIRMAN OF EUROGROUP) AND TO CHAIRMAN OF NATO/EURO TRAINING GROUP BY WAY OF MILITARY COMMITTEE. SUBJECT TO THIS MODIFICATION, EWG APPROVED FURTHER STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING WITH TOR AMENDED AS APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE MILITARY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION IN REQUESTING STUDY AND REVIEWING REPORTS.

2. EWG APPROVED FURTHER STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS, WITH TOR AS WRITTEN REF A, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) WHO WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

3. EWG ALSO APPROVED FURTHER STUDY OF THE WARTIME LOC, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY BELGIUM, BUT ONLY AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF WRANGLING. BELGIAN REP (TAYMANS) AT FIRST REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS ITEM, OR PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY APPLYING TO THE CENTRAL REGION, BECAUSE SUCH A STUDY WOULD USE THE US MATRIX STUDY AS A CONCEPTUAL BASIS. BELGIAN REP MADE IT PAINFULLY CLEAR THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT APPROVE ANY R/S WORK THAT MIGHT LEAD IN ANY WAY TO RESTRUCTURING ANY PART OF THE BELGIAN ARMED FORCES. US REP (BOWNAM), SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OTHER REPS, REASSURED THE BELGIAN REP THAT THE MANPOWER CHANGES ADVANCED IN THE US MATRIX WERE ON AN ILLUSTRATIVE BASIS ONLY AND, IF ALLIES COULD NOT ACCEPT CERTAIN FUNCTIONAL AREAS, THEN THE EWG SHOULD PURSUE OTHERS. IN ANY CASE ACCEPTING AN AREA FOR FURTHER STUDY DID NOT PRECOMMIT A NATION TO CARRY OUT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY.

4. BELGIAN REP STILL EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS, EXPLAINING THAT THE MATRIX CONCEPT ITSELF IMPLIED FURTHER TRADEOFFS. HE PARTICULARLY OBJECTED TO MANPOWER REDUCTIONS DUE TO HOST NATION SUPPORT OF SAM SITES. IN THIS REGARD, THE UK REP (MACDONALD) AGREED AND STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT TRADEOFFS, ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES THAT ANY R/S SAVINGS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO IMPROVEMENTS AND THAT R/S SHOULD NOT IMPLY ANY REDUCTION IN DEFENSE SPENDING.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 05799 190317Z

5. MC AND NETHERLANDS REPS THEN TOOK A DIFFERENT TACK, POINTING OUT THAT THE WARTIME LOC WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT AREA IDENTIFIED IN THE LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION SUB-GROUP REPORT. USING THIS REPORT AS A FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER LOC STUDY WOULD DECOUPLE LOC WORK FROM TRADEOFFS.

6. US REP THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE MATRIX CONCEPT CALLED FOR NATO TO LOOK AT FUNCTIONAL REAS IN A WIDER CONTEXT RATHER THAN AS SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. IF AN EWG STUDY OF A CERTAIN FUNCTIONAL AREA CONCLUDES THAT ONE NATION SHOULD TAKE ON ADDITIONAL TASKS, THAT SAME NATION WOULD RECEIVE COMPENSATION IN ANOTHER AREA SO THAT IN THE LONG RUN NO ONE IS HURT AND THE ALLIANCE GAINS. NATO TRAINING CENTERS AND

HOST NATION SUPPORT PROPOSALS ARE EXAMPLES OF WHERE NATIONS WOULD BENEFIT BY HAVING ANOTHER NATION PERFORM CERTAIN TASKS IN EXCHANGE FOR PICKING UP COMPENSATING RESPONSIBILITIES. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT NATO LOOK AT MANY DIFFERENT AREAS FOR SUCH EXCHANGES EITHER IN THE EWG OR IN BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL TALKS.

7. SHAPE REP (MILLER) HELPFULLY INDICATED THAT SHAPE FEELS THE WARTIME LOC IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT R/S MEASURES WHERE NATO CAN REALIZE A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN MILITARY CAPABILITY THROUGH BETTER LOC SUPPORT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SHAPE'S FLEXIBILITY STUDY, NOW IN PROGRESS, HAS A DIRECT LINK TO THE LOC PROBLEM. A BETTER LOC WOULD ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY BUT ALL PARTIES INVOLVED MUST COME INTO THE PLANNING EFFORT IN DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED LOC PLAN. SHAPE REP ENCOURAGED ALL NATIONS CONCERNED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WARTIME LOC STUDY.

8. AFTER OTHER REPS HAD MADE THESE POINTS, BELGIAN REP STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO HIS AUTHORITIES THAT BELGIUM PARTICIPATE IN THE WARTIME LOC STUDY BUT NOT IN TERMS OF TRADEOFFS INVOLVING CUTTING OF BELGIAN FORCES. SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS (AGAIN WITHOUT INSTRUCTION), THE EWG APPROVED FURTHER STUDY WITH TOR AS DRAFTED.

9.. AS A FINAL ITEM, EWG CHAIRMAN(PANSA) OUTLINED HIS THOUGHTS FOR REPORTING R/S STUDY RESULTS TO MINISTERS. HE PROPOSED THAT THE EWG PREPARE A PROGRESS REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 05799 190317Z

TRAINING FOR MINISTERS IN DECEMBER, AND THAT REPORTS ON THE OTHER TWO AREAS WOULD FOLLOW IN THE SPRING AFTER THE STUDY GROUPS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INTO THEIR TASKS. EWG POSED NO OBJECTION TO THIS SCHEDULE.
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